

NSC files in

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Becker

DATE: 14 Sept 1951

STAT FROM :

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notedSUBJECT: The Transaction of NSC
Business in CIA

CIA is represented in the NSC organization by the Director on the Council level, by the Deputy Director or his alternate on the Senior Staff, and by the Staff Assistant in the Staff Assistants Group. In addition, CIA has a representative (from C/RR) on the East-West Trade Committee.

CIA's principal role in connection with the NSC is to render intelligence support in the preparation of NSC papers and to comment, from the intelligence point of view, on policy matters before the various NSC Staff levels.

The normal NSC procedure is for a problem to be presented for consideration and the preparation of recommendations to the President by one of the Council members, usually the Secretary of State or the Secretary of Defense. The paper raising the problem may be referred immediately to the Staff Assistants for review and the drafting of the analysis, conclusions, and recommendations, or it may be considered by the Senior Staff in order to have a discussion of the major policy issues involved and to obtain agreement on guidance to the Staff Assistants.

After a draft paper has been prepared by the Staff Assistants it is scheduled on the agenda of the Senior Staff. The paper at this point may be completely agreed to by the agencies represented or it may carry split positions. At the Senior Staff level the paper is put in final form for Council consideration. If disagreements cannot be resolved at this level, the respective positions of the various agencies are referred to the Council.

The past duties of the CIA Staff Assistant have been:

1. To participate in meetings of the Staff Assistants Group, advising on intelligence matters arising in the drafting or revision of NSC papers.

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2. To attend Senior Staff meetings in order to assist the CIA Senior Staff member and to learn the instructions given the Staff Assistants Group.
3. To keep himself informed of CIA estimates in order to give the Staff Assistants Group the benefit of CIA views.
4. To advise CIA producing offices, particularly O/NE, of problems arising in the NSC which may require intelligence support.
5. To refer NSC papers to appropriate CIA offices for their information.

There are several problems in connection with CIA's handling of NSC business which, in my opinion, require consideration and determination. These include:

1. Who is responsible for providing such briefing for the DCI and the Deputy DCI as they may require and desire? ✓
2. Who is responsible for the preparation of the books for the DCI and the Deputy DCI before NSC meetings and the assembling of the necessary papers and memoranda? ✓
3. Who is responsible for the circulation to CIA offices of appropriate NSC documents? ✓
4. Who is responsible for requesting the appropriate CIA office to prepare comments and to provide briefings on NSC business? ✓
5. Who is responsible for maintaining a check to see that NSC work assigned to CIA is being undertaken, instructions implemented, and deadlines met? ✓
6. From whom should the Staff Assistant receive directions with regard to CIA views and policy on matters before the Staff Assistants Group? ✓
7. To whom should inquiries from within CIA concerning NSC procedure be referred? ✓

It is my feeling that there should be a place within CIA through which all regular NSC business clears. Such an office, working under the direction of the DCI and the Deputy DCI, should be responsible for all matters of concern to DCI and D/DCI resulting from their association with NSC.

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